

Specification Page 19 - Amended with Underlining
And Strikethroughs

The fiber direction refers to the longitudinal direction of the filaments 30. In the filament bundling body 31, the fibers are bundled in a state in which their directions are aligned. It should be noted, however, that the filament bundling body 31 does not exclude a construction in which a slight amount of other fibers are mingled so as to extend in a direction crossing the large number of filaments 30 forming the filament bundling body. Further, to achieve the object of the present invention, apart from extending in a straight line linearly to form the filament bundling body 31, the filaments 30 may also be bent entirely or locally. Thus, in the present invention, when it is said that the filaments 30 are aligned in the fiber direction, this is intended to preclude a state in which the fibers are oriented at random; that is, this is intended to mean that the general configurations and orientations of the filaments 30 are analogous to each other, without having to strictly coincide with each other in the fiber direction.

The large number of filaments 30 aligned in the fiber direction are first bundled with each other at the bundling portion to form the filament bundling body 31. There are

no particular limitations regarding the configuration of the filament bundling body 31; it may be, for example, of a planar, a straw-bag-like, or a block-like configuration. In bundling, the large number of filaments 30 are collected in a predetermined fiber density in the radial direction. In contrast, in the fiber direction, they may be collected while